



THE CANOPY



Newsletter of Seno K/RLT Conservancy

Hauling Ash by Mark Lesko



Seno K/RLT Conservancy

3606 Dyer Lake Road
Burlington, WI 53105
262.539.3222

News and Events

Summer /Fall
2015

Inside this issue:

Hauling Ash

Eagle Scouts Rock

- Bad boy Shed
- Trailer

Bat Boxes

Hero Goose and Fawn
Visiting Seno

Join Us

Wish List

As many of our readers and friends are aware, the Emerald ash borer (EAB) has been on the move since its discovery in 2002 in southeast Michigan. Previously, its host nations included China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, and part of eastern Russia. The prevailing theory regarding EAB emergence in the United States is that the insect hitch-hiked in Ash wood used for pallets for commercial materials shipped to the U.S. from overseas. The EAB has now spread to 15 states and 2 Canadian provinces, and there is no expectation that it will cease movement in the near future. EAB obviously prefers ash trees, and as it kills all ash that hosts the larvae, it must move to find new ash trees as hosts and sustenance. Additionally, the spread of EAB is believed to have been expedited by movement of ash firewood, ash nursery trees, and perhaps ash sawlogs to previously uninfected areas. State and Federal agencies have promulgated quarantine zones, where movement of ash firewood and forest products must be restricted.

All ash trees larger than 1.5 inches of trunk diameter are susceptible. Infested trees usually die within 2-4 years, with larvae boring and tunneling through the cambium/phloem layer, just under the bark, robbing the tree from essential sap flow and nutrient conduction. Ash trees begin the decline at the top canopy. Infested trees will not survive. Specimen trees within a highly valued arboretum or backyard may be treated with systemic insecticide injection, but this treatment may be required for recurrent years and may be costly. Infested Ash stands in wood lots and forests, such as those in the Seno K/RLT-managed properties, require removal and replacement with native trees that will not host EAB. (cont'd pg.2)



Emerald ash borer





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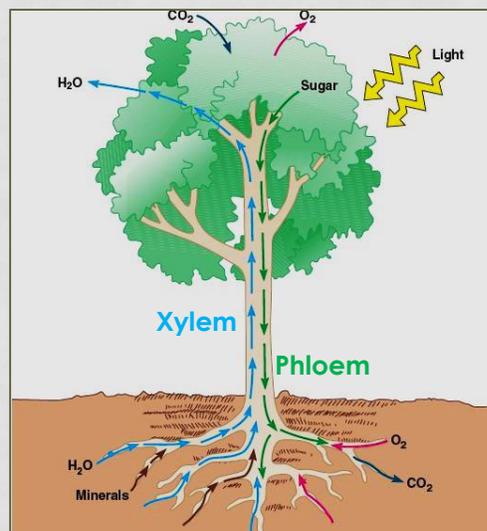
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Land and Property Manager

Juan Gomez

How it works



EAB's Destructive Process

The larvae bore into the circulatory system of a tree and prevent the flow of nutrients and sap by deranging the xylem and phloem. Damage shown below.



There are 4 acres of established ash stands at Seno K/RLT, with additional and less dense areas of ash dispersed throughout. Ash was a very popular tree when the stands were planted by Elvira and Les Seno, as there were no native insect or disease threats. Now all ash at Seno K/RLT is infested or already dead/dying. The Board of Directors found no logger or timber interest in these trees, which were mostly less than 12 inches caliper (diameter breast height). So the ash trees were offered to private firewood users under strict harvest conditions involving requirements for safety, timing, and compliance with the quarantine restrictions. At the time of this writing, about 80 percent of the ash firewood harvest is complete in the core 4 acre target zone. Additionally, plans and grant applications are underway to replant the 4 acres in 2 successive years (spring 2016 and spring 2017). The replanting will include conifers (such as white pine and white spruce) and native hardwoods (such as black cherry, white oak and red oak).

If you would like to assist this replanting effort, and become educated on the replanting principles and practices, the Seno KRLT could certainly use your help. We invite Boy and Girl Scout troop leaders to contact us about this unique opportunity to achieve Forestry Badge credit.

Mark Lesko has been a longstanding volunteer at the Seno-managed properties, owns Arbor Hills Nursery LLC in Burlington WI, and is a member of the International Society for Arboriculture.

Questions may be addressed to mlesko@wi.rr.com

Eagle Scouts Rock!

We have been very, very fortunate of late due to the hard work and talents of a couple of Eagle Scouts who soared in to renovate and restore two much-needed things for us. One is the Bad Boy Shed and the other is a trailer. Neither were solid or safe – but, they are now!!

First, the Bad Boy shed. For those of you who may not know, this is not where we relegate naughty boys. The Bad Boy shed is where the all-purpose battery powered vehicle is housed. It was badly damaged during the retaining wall installation and had already been showing signs of decay.

Graeme Gross and his volunteers took on this sizable project and at the end, we were left with a palace for the Bad Boy complete with good lighting, windows, a shelf for the battery charger and brand new doors.. Those of us who use the Bad Boy with regularity could not be more thrilled or grateful. It was a tremendous amount of work.

Here are some pictures...

The bottom of the north wall had rotted away and was, for the most part, no longer attached to the foundation. It was pretty shaky. (right)

The doors on the east side were far out of square and plumb. The hinges were having a hard time supporting the weight of the right hand door especially. (right)



A fresh coat of paint going on during one of the many work days Graeme arranged with volunteers from his Scout Troop. (left)

Voila! The finished product. A shed fit for the Bad Boy. Many thanks to all who lent a hand on behalf of Seno K/RLT Conservancy.

There are plenty more Eagle Scout opportunities at Seno. Please contact us at 262.539.3222 to discuss a potential project.



And now, for the trailer project. Cullen Brien came through for Seno in a big and very quick way. Time was of the essence for Cullen because he had only a few weeks to complete this project from start to finish.

A dilapidated trailer needed quite a bit of work in order to make it road-worthy and capable of handling a load. Cullen and his crew renovated it from the bottom up. The undercarriage was sand blasted and painted. New deck and sides were installed. The wiring for the lights was redone and new lights were installed. The fenders were fixed and to top it off, the trailer was trimmed in a dark forest green. You can't even tell it is the same trailer! Amazingly, it was all completed in about 5 weeks. Well done Cullen Brien and crew! We think it is spectacular.



A sad state of affairs was our trailer as above.



The floppy fenders were removed and most of the wood to expose the undercarriage. What a difference the perfect color of paint can make. Look at the wheels!!



Lots of assembly required. And in the end, the piece de resistance, a shiny red light.

New Home Construction at Seno

What??!! No, of course not for people. Our barn bats needed a place to call home once efforts were under taken to prevent the bats from taking up residence in the upper barn upon their return this spring.

Volunteers in the Wisconsin Master Naturalist Volunteer Training built and donated 5 very fine bat boxes. Then another pair of volunteers them. This was no easy feat and it required the assistance of some heavy equipment and those undaunted by height.

Installation of the largest of the boxes, built and donated by Ed Antaramian, required the use of a lift to get the people and the boxes to the right height on the old wind mill tower.

Volunteers David Burke and Jeff Calvert secured the boxes back to back on the tower.



Juan Gomez – Resident Hero



X-ray showing the trajectory of the arrow



Juan Gomez is Seno K/RLT Conservancy's property manager by night. During the day he is a Wisconsin DNR Game Warden who, from time to time, rescues wildlife in need of help. The Canada goose was suffering with an arrow imbedded through the right chest wall and the fawn had fallen into a newly constructed basement. Both were taken to Fellow Mortals in Lake Geneva and were expected to make a complete recovery. Well done, Juan! Fellow Mortals can be reached at 262. 248.5055 www.fellowmortals.org. Follow them on Face Book.

Coming Events...

Get the garlic. Get the stakes.



Dracula
A Live Theatrical
Performance

October 17th, 2015
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Ticket Price - \$15.00



Celebrate this time of year with live theatre in the rustic barn and woodlands of Seno. Creative Outlets will perform this timeless story including a 10 minute pursuit of Dracula along a woodland path.

Following the play, there will be a reception in the lower barn to meet the cast of characters. Beverages and hors d'oeuvres will be available.

There will also be an optional night hike.
Dress for the weather. Upper barn is not heated.

Tickets available by calling 262.539.3222
Space is limited.



Seno K/RLT Conservancy is dedicated to forestry, natural resources education, conservation and land preservation.

Tickets on Sale Now.

Paper Folding

November 28th, 2015 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

The art and craft of paper folding can result in beautiful keepsake pieces. Participants will learn to make Holiday ornaments fit for gifts and decorations.

All materials included. Fee - \$12.00 each

To register call 262.539.3222

Winter Solstice Observance

December 19th, 2015 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a Solstice Celebration a few days early. This celebration will include a guided hike followed by beverages and snacks, and a fire, as well as the opportunity to craft a hand-made ornament to commemorate this astronomical event.

Free and open to the public.

Wish List for Seno

Gift Cards to the following:

- Local hardware stores
- Michael's Crafts
- Gooseberries
- Office Depot
- Woodman's
- Acorn Naturalist
- Aldi
- Joanne Fabrics
- Barnes and Noble

And these:

- New projection screen for presentations and movies
- New Astroscan telescope
- Bi-fold display units on wheels
- Banners for the lower barn
- New railings for the ramps to the building
- Funds for a sign with our new name and logo to replace the old one at the front of the property
- Little Library
- New CD/DVD player
- Radio Flyer-type All-Terrain Wagon
- Kid sized waders

Most of all we are looking for skilled and energetic volunteers. There is something for everyone at Seno. Feel free to stop by or give us a call. We would be happy to help you discover your niche at Seno K/RLT Conservancy.

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Become a Member of the Seno K/RLT Conservancy

Every donation towards the Seno K/RLT Conservancy is used to support our mission of providing environmental education, promoting sustainable management of forests, wetlands, prairies, and wildlife as well as opportunities for permanent preservation of these lands. We are a registered 501(c)3 non-profit education organization and land trust. All dues and donations are tax deductible under IRS rules.

Your Information

Name:(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Membership Level (Please check one)

- Individual\$25
- Family \$40
- Forestry Friend\$100
- Land Protector\$500
- Patron \$1000
- Benefactor\$5000
- Other amount\$_____

Additional donation for land acquisition \$_____

All dues and donations are tax deductible under IRS rules.

Make your check payable to Seno K/RLT Conservancy and send with this form to:

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